



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday March 16, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Conducted by Hybrid Participation -Arlington Community Center HHS Conference Room and via Zoom

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

1. Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.

2. **\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Present: Laura Gitelson, Andy Robinson, Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Helene Newburg, Kym Goldsmith, Kari Sasportas, Molly Gillis, Paloma Cotton-Herman

Absent: Jill Harvey

Guests: Gillian Sinnott, Jennifer Susse, Julia Starkey (Library), Teresa Marzilli (DEI), Len Diggins (SB), Marci Shapiro-Ide, Stephen Toropov (Library)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at: 6:32pm

1. Remote Participation Statement and Guidelines
  - a. HN

2. Land Acknowledgement
  - a. HN
3. Review and approval of February 2023 Minutes
  - a. SRV move, LK second
  - b. AR, KS, PCH, LG, KG, MBG, HN, SRV, LK yes
4. Presentation by [Equitable Arlington](#) on the MBTA Communities Act
  - a. MBTA Communities Act is “a state mandate that Arlington (along with 174 other communities) create a district or districts where multi-family housing is allowed by right”
    - i. new housing will help address housing, transportation and climate needs
  - b. EA is “Arlington residents who advocate for a high range of housing choices for every income level at every life stage”
  - c. help the planning dept spread the word on this local initiative
    - i. over next 1.5 years, the community will consider the types and location of housing to encourage
  - d. How does this issue impact the LGBTQIA+ community?
    - i. LGBTQIA+ identified folks are some of the most vulnerable/economically disadvantaged
  - e. Working Group Updates
  - f. Communications
    - i. Town put out of a statement re: anti-LGBTQIA+ graffiti and RC contributed a quote
    - ii. Kari and Susan keeping social media channels active and sending out monthly newsletter
    - iii. Include Kari on the email if sending an email to post content to social
  - g. Town Systems & Policies
    - i. Scheduling a working group meeting in the coming weeks to discuss and be responsive to equity audit findings
  - h. Community Engagement
    - i. May 13 RC event – partnering with Education group for one Pride celebration event
    - ii. June 24 – unconfirmed Pride event date (awaiting final confirmation)
    - iii. Volunteers meeting – date TBD in the coming weeks
  - i. Education
    - i. Community Conversation on March 13 went well – focused on libraries and content
    - ii. 4th/5th Grade Growth curriculum being contested – request for in-person presence at next school committee meeting April 13
    - iii. Unified response in progress with the Human Rights Commission
  - j. Finance
    - i. Add guidelines on lead time for submitting form (ie. submit form a month in advance)

5. Liaison Updates
  - a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
    - i. Conflict of interest training update – no additional info yet
    - ii. Language Access question
  - b. Police Department (APD)
    - i. Banner hung on highway by white supremacist group – police removed
  - c. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs
  - d. Library
    - i. Looking to get people from all different generations at events
    - ii. Pride Prom – May 19, 6-9pm
      1. looking for food donations, clothing donations
  - e. Select Board
  - f. Council on Aging
6. Public Engagement and Open Commentary
7. Close and Next Meeting. Thursday, April 20, 2023. 6:30pm Hybrid.
  - a. SRV move, MG second
8. Adjourn: LG, AR, PCH, KS, KG, LK, SRV, MG yes

Commission members not able to attend please email [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us) prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.